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THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COWLEY COUNTY, KANSAS

being

A thesis presented to the Graduate Faculty
of the Fort Hays Kansas State College in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the Degree of Master of Science

by

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Date

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
II. PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC SETTING OF THE COUNTY	
Natural Features.....	4
Temperature.....	4
Rainfall.....	5
Physical Features.....	5
Elevation, Topography, and Drainage.....	5
Soils.....	6
Water Resources.....	12
Land Forms and Uses.....	13
III. HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY.....	24
IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Transportation.....	38
Railroads.....	38
Roads.....	41
Air Transportation.....	42
Agricultural Development.....	43
Agricultural Information.....	46
Crops and Pasture.....	47
Present Land Use.....	47
Problems and Objectives of Cowley County Summarized.....	49
Objectives.....	50

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CHAPTER

PAGE

Flood Damage.....	51
Mineral Resources.....	51
Fairchild Corporation.....	55
Sonner Burner Company.....	56
The Federal Supply and Machine Company.....	57
H. P. Gott Manufacturing Company.....	57
Consolidated Flour Mill.....	58
Seymour Packing Company.....	59
Armour Creameries.....	60
V. POPULATION GROWTH, DISTRIBUTION, CHARACTERISTICS	62
VI. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Churches.....	64
The First Methodist Episcopal Church.....	64
The First Baptist Church.....	65
First Christian Church.....	66
First Presbyterian Church.....	67
Church of the Holy Name.....	68
Grace Episcopal Church.....	69
Grace Methodist Episcopal Church.....	70
Other Churches.....	71
Schools.....	71
Southwestern College.....	71
St. John's College.....	74
Government	76
Winfield.....	77

CHAPTER

PAGE

Arkansas City.....	78
Burden.....	79
Dexter.....	80
Udall.....	80
Tisdale.....	81
Atlanta.....	81
Cambridge.....	81
Geuda Springs.....	82
Newspapers.....	82
VII. SUMMARY.....	85
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	94

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

FIGURE	PAGE
1. Soil Map of Cowley County.....	11
2. Land Areas in Cowley County.....	22
3. Average Annual Monthly Precipitation in Cowley County.....	23

TABLE	
I. Population Chart for Cowley County.....	63

CHAPTER I

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF COWLEY COUNTY, KANSAS

There is a beauty and charm about the Walnut Valley that is not lost on even the most casual visitor to that region. Cowley county, and especially the Winfield area, epitomize that beauty to a high degree.

Cowley county was organized in 1870 from the territory of Osage Indians.

It was defined as a strip running thirty-three miles north from a point on the state line, 105 miles west of the state line, and extending thirty-four and one half miles west. At this time the county was comprised of the diminished Osage Reserve and a three mile strip on the south line, which had been reserved as a pathway for the Cherokees on their hunting trips to their more western possessions. The great Osage trail ran east and west across the county, entering at the Flint hills on the east, crossing the Grouse about two miles above Dexter, the Walnut at Winfield, and the Arkansas at the mouth of the Ninnesca. The Osage village was on Timber Creek, a short distance from Winfield.¹

To one who goes to this county to make his home, questions arise about the area. When was this region first settled? Why did people come here? What industries grew up here? How do the people make a living? What is their philosophy of life?

In searching for an answer to these questions, this

1. A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 1587.

thesis is dedicated. The author realizes that such a broad field can only be lightly covered in so short a study. Perhaps it would have been better to have selected one phase of the subject for intensive research, but that would not have satisfied the desire to know the early economic conditions and history as well as present day trends in the county.

The plan of this thesis is to devote a chapter to each important phase of the economic development of the county. In the following chapter is outlined the physical characteristics of soil and climate and their effect upon economic life. A chapter is devoted to the settlement of the county. The philosophy and characteristics of the early settlers have played a large part in the direction and progress of economic activity in the county. The evidence of economic development, which includes transportation and trade, as well as agriculture, oil, and manufacturing are discussed. The last two chapters are given to an appraisal of social and political development.

To limit a study which would require volumes to complete, chapters V and VI are given to an analysis of the situation that prevails at Winfield, county seat of Cowley county. The only possibility of bringing the problem to a successful conclusion was to organize the important historical and economic events so that a logical presentation of general trends of the problem could be reached.

The author wishes to express his appreciation for the invaluable suggestions made by Dr. Leonard W. Thompson under whose direction this thesis was prepared.

CHAPTER II

PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC SETTING OF THE COUNTY

Natural Features

Cowley county, Kansas, is located in the east part of the south-central section of the State. It is the fifth county west of the Missouri line and adjoins Oklahoma on the south. Cowley county contains 727,040 acres. It includes townships 30 south to 35 south and ranges 3 west to 8 west. The climate of Cowley county varies to extremes as is shown by the following temperature and rainfall charts.

Temperature

The average annual and normal monthly temperatures at Winfield, Kansas, are as follows:¹

Average Temperature
57.8

January	33.2	July	80.9
February	36.7	August	80.3
March	47.7	September	72.3
April	57.7	October	60.3
May	66.4	November	46.7
June	75.9	December	35.7

The highest temperature ever recorded at the county seat, Winfield, was 118 degrees in August, 1936. The lowest

1. U. S. Weather Bureau Records, Winfield, Kansas, 1944.

was 27 degrees below 0 Febraury, 1905. Temperature rises to 100 degrees or higher at some time during every summer, and drops below 0 almost every winter.

Rainfall

The average annual rainfall of Cowley county is 33.07 inches. This has varied from 19.36 inches in 1910 to 48.91 in 1922. Rainfall records from 1898 to 1944 inclusive show 24 years below average and 23 years above average. May has an average of 4.72 and the average for June is 4.85. January has the lowest average--one inch. The precipitation for individual months has varied from none in January, 1914, and September, 1939, to a high of 13.22 inches in June, 1904. For average annual rainfall and average distribution (Cowley county) by months, see charts on pages 11 and 22. The growing season in Cowley county has averaged 188 days during the years for which records are available. The shortest growing season was 141 days, the longest, 207 days.²

Physical Features

Elevation, Topography, and Drainage

The elevation of Cowley county is variable, but averages about 1,250 feet. The topography varies from

2. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Yearbook of Agriculture (Washington, D. C., 1941), p. 873.

gently sloping to rolling and hilly. In the eastern part of the county the topography is broken in what is known as the Flint Hills area. Surface drainage is well established throughout the county except for local areas along the larger streams. Sub-drainage is well established throughout the county. The head water of Grouse Creek starts in the northern part of the county. This creek runs diagonally, starting in the northeastern part of the county and running to the southeastern part of the county. About one third of the county is drained by this creek and at times there are flash floods which do a tremendous amount of damage. The Walnut River comes into the county from the north, entering about three-fourths of the way to the west side of the county. This river drains a large area and tremendous floods occur along its banks when we have intensive rains. The western part of the county is of a more level nature, and there are some areas in this part which need drainage. There are several other creeks of minor importance which drain into the Walnut River and Grouse Creek.

Soils

There are eight different land types that are most predominant in Cowley county. Each type is based chiefly upon the class of slope and type of soil.

The first land type to be described is that of the gently sloping. It is a deep black, moderately friable

silty soil. It is shown on the survey map as Summit silty clay loam and Summit silt loam.³ The slopes are predominately between 3 and 4 per cent, and are chiefly of moderate sheet erosion. Severe erosion occurs only in isolated patches, especially if the land happens to be poorly managed.

This land type occurs chiefly on slopes with limenrock outcropping above, or its distribution may be described as tillable lands among the limestone hills of Cowley county. Wheat, corn, and alfalfa are the principal crops grown on this land type.

The second land type in the county is one of gently sloping land with a deep friable silty soil. It is shown on the soil survey map of Cowley county as soil type areas of Crawford silt loam, Derby fine sand loam, Derby loam, and Derby silt loam. The soil is windblown silty material, deep and friable, and has been subjected more or less to moderate sheet erosion. The slopes are predominately 4 per cent and vary from 2 to as much as 6 per cent. The most extensive areas of this land type is that mapped as Derby silt loam in southwestern Cowley county. Where the slopes are of any length, this is gullied due to the concentration of water in dead furrows. Its high absorptive capacity has lessened its erosion.

3. U. S. Department of Agriculture--Field Operations and Bureau of Soils, 17th. Report (Washington, D. C., 1915), p. 1921.

The third land type is one with nearly level to gently sloping land that has an average 3 per cent slope that is occupied by a soil with a tight clay subsoil. It is shown on the soil survey map of the county as areas of Gerald silt loam, and Gerald silty clay loam. It occurs chiefly on the divides of the uplands. The most extensive areas of this type are in northern Cowley county around the vicinity of Atlanta. A large per cent of this silt loam soil is in cultivation. Erosion is more severe on this land type than on the two soil types described above, since the claypan subsoil prevents downward penetration and increases the run off. The over-grazing of the pastures has caused some gullies to form there as well as in the cultivated fields.

The fourth land type occupies a flat to nearly level terrain that has a deep, friable silty soil.⁴ It is shown on the soil survey map of Cowley county as areas of Canadian silt loam, Arkansas silt loam, and Osage silt loam. These are soils on the bottomland. They are rich in fertility and are good producers of wheat, corn, and alfalfa. Very little erosion has occurred on this type of land except where overflows have set up currents and caused some channelling. This usually occurs only when flooded, when the land is bare of vegetation, or is freshly plowed.

4. Loc. cit.

The fifth land type in the county has a flat to nearly level surface and a soil with a light clay subsoil. It includes all of the soil types shown on the soil survey map as those of Osage silty clay loam, Osage clay, Oswego silt loam, Arkansas clay, and Neosho silt loam. Surface drainage is poor so that during a wet spell water remains on the field in large amounts for a considerable time and damages the crops. Very little erosion has occurred in this type of land but drainage is a problem and must be handled as surface drainage with ditches.

The sixth land type in the county is of gently sloping sandy land that has a friable, sandy subsoil.⁵ It is shown on the soil survey map as Derby fine sand. The slopes are predominantly 4 per cent and subject to both wind and water erosion. The wind erosion is evidenced by soil drifts in fence rows. There are some gullies into which water collects from other drainage.

The seventh land type is that of flat to nearly level sandy soil with a friable, sandy subsoil.⁶ It is shown on the soil survey map as Arkansas fine sand, and Arkansas fine sandy loam. Both of these soil types are bottom land soils. They are well drained but subject to

5. Ibid., p. 1922.

6. Loc. cit.

overflow. Wind erosion may be a serious problem on parts of the land. The most extensive area of this land type is along the Arkansas River.

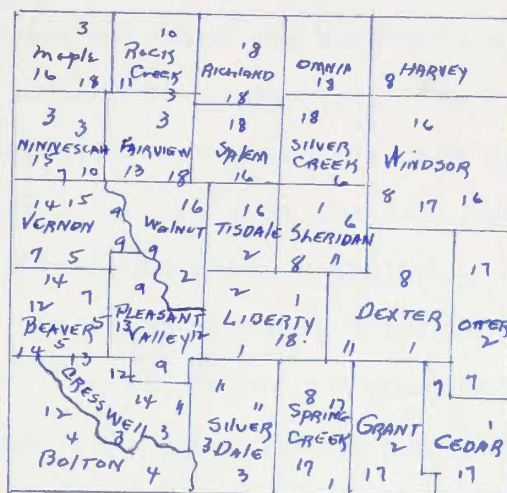
The eighth land type consists of steeply sloping rough, broken, or stony land.⁷ It is called Crawford silt loam shallow phase, Summit silty clay loam shallow phase, and Summit stony loam. The soil survey map of Cowley county shows this land type to be distributed over the county in irregular shaped areas. The slopes vary from 2 to as much as 30 per cent. The steeper slopes are most representative of areas mapped as Summit stony loam. This land type supports a good growth of grasses and is used entirely for range land. Because of the good grass cover, very little damaging erosion occurs.

The soils of Cowley county have been formed from a wide range of materials.⁸ Those in the eastern and northern parts are primarily residual from limestone, but have been influenced to some extent by shale. Those found in the western and southwestern parts of the county have been formed largely from water deposits, while there are local areas of soils formed by wind-deposited materials. The soils that are residual from limestone consist primarily of Brown to dark brown silt loams, some of which are relatively shallow

7. Ibid., p. 1923.

8. Loc. cit.

FIGURE I



SOIL MAP OF COWLEY COUNTY

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Summit Silty Clay Loam | 10. Osage Clay |
| 2. Summit Silt Loam | 11. Osage Silt Loam |
| 3. Crawford Silt Loam | 12. Arkansas Clay |
| 4. Derby Fine Sand Loam | 13. Neosho Silt Loam |
| 5. Derby Silt Loam | 14. Arkansas Fine Sand |
| 6. Canadian Silt Loam | 15. Arkansas Fine Sandy Loam |
| 7. Arkansas Silt Loam | 16. Summit Silty Clay Loam |
| 8. Osage Silt Loam | 17. Summit Stony Loam |
| 9. Osage Silty Clay Loam | 18. Gerald Silt Loam |

U. S. Department of Agriculture--Field Operations and Bureau of Soils, 17th. Report (Washington, D. C., 1915), Map 52.

and therefore not suitable for the production of cultivated crops. The soils formed from water deposits vary from sands to clays and are deep and underlain by water varying in depth from a few feet to 20 feet. The bottom land soils along the Walnut River are typically dark brown to black—deep, fertile silt loams. They are well drained but are subject to relatively frequent overflow.

Most of the soils are well supplied with lime and, in general, it is only on the more sandy uplands that it is necessary to use lime in the production of alfalfa and sweet clover. Phosphorus is relatively low on most of the soils and may be used successfully in the growing of alfalfa, sweet clover, and wheat.

Water Resources

In most areas of the county we have good water resources. The water comes from shallow and deep wells, some excellent springs, the Walnut River, the Arkansas River, and the Grouse Creek. There are, however, places in the county where it is very difficult to secure good water, even from deep wells.

Oil wells are quite numerous in Cowley county. These create a problem from the standpoint of water supply since the refuse from the oil wells seeps into the water making it unfit for use.

Along the Arkansas River Valley there is a good underflow of water making shallow wells possible. Farm ponds are used in the pasture area as a source of water for livestock. They are a better source of supply than springs since the springs sometimes go dry in summer.

Land Forms and Uses

The Cowley County Soil Conservation Committee, with its chairman, George Brown, designated eight land use areas in the county.⁹ Area I is located in the eastern portion of the county. It is the largest of the land use areas which were delineated by the committee.

The soils in Area I are primarily residual from limestone. They are relatively shallow. Subsoils in this portion of the county vary from gravelly clays to relatively heavy clays. Topography varies from rolling, through hilly, to distinctly broken lands. The area is predominately in pasture, but a considerable acreage is in cultivation. Committeemen report that the large pastures which are within ranching or commercial grazing units are in excellent condition. The small farm or barnyard pastures have, in many cases, been over-grazed. Erosion varies from moderate to severe.

9. George Brown, Chairman, Report of Cowley County Soil Conservation Committee, Winfield, 1945. Unpublished.

The type and size of farm is widely varied. The area includes several cattle ranches with from 2,000 to 5,000 acres.¹⁰ Many small farms are also located within this area. These cash-grain or general farms average approximately 160 acres in size. A high percentage of them are operated by tenants. Considerable difficulty has been experienced by operators in making this type of farm profitable.

In former years, small operators produced corn, alfalfa, kafir, cane, and other feeds which were all fed or sold to adjacent stock farms. The depression, however, financially ruined many of the cattlemen when the market for these crops was no longer available. As a result, many of the small operators turned to the production of wheat. They have found this system of farming to be unsatisfactory, and committeemen report that operators are now beginning to turn back to livestock. Many of the tracts which are in cultivation have been depleted so severely from intensive crop production and erosion that they are no longer profitable in that use.

Serious shortages of water for livestock and domestic purposes exist within the area. Committeemen report that wells cannot be depended upon and that chief dependence

10. Loc. cit.

must be placed upon surface water. They report that the AAA range program has accomplished much in this regard, especially on the large livestock units. Cash-grain and general farmers are still in grave need of reliable water supplies.

Area I contains 340,720 acres.¹¹ There are comparatively few rural schools operating in this area. Those that are operating are doing so with very limited enrollments.

The area should be utilized as ranching units. Upland tracts which are being intensively cropped should be retired to grass. Bottom lands within the areas should be utilized for production of feed to supplement adjacent pastures.

Area II is located in the north central portion of Cowley county. It occupies the divide between the Walnut River and Timber Creek. Soils are primarily residual from limestone. They are relatively shallow in the original state and primarily of brown to dark brown silt loam texture. Topography is rolling. Sheet and gully erosion is moderate to severe.

The cropping system for the area has changed during the last several years from feed crop production to small grain production. Area II contains 36,392 acres.¹²

11. Loc. cit.

12. Loc. cit.

Committeemen recommended a general farm of at least 320 acres with dairy cattle, beef cattle, and sheep as desirable livestock enterprises. Creek bottoms should be utilized for the production of alfalfa.

Area III includes the bottom land of the Arkansas and Walnut Rivers, together with the chief tributaries of the Walnut River. The area is located in the western portion of the county. Soils along the Walnut River are typically dark brown to black, deep, fertile silt loam soil. Soils along the Arkansas are typically lighter in color and texture. The topography is level.

In former years, farm orchards were grown throughout much of the area but insects and diseases have affected production to such an extent that many of the orchards have recently been removed. This area was formerly used for the production of feed crops to be utilized on the farm or sold to cattle feeders on adjacent farms and ranches. With the partial elimination of this market, operators turned to wheat production.

Farms are small within this area, averaging 100 acres in size. In the vicinity of larger towns, such as Arkansas City and Winfield, a large number of small tracts are operated by people employed in the towns. Floods are a very serious problem. Area III contains 117,512 acres.¹³

13. Loc. cit.

Committeemen recommend for this area, a livestock farm with 160 acres of crop land in the bottom. Grass could be secured from adjacent areas. Several alternatives were suggested for livestock operations--first, the operator might practice a deferred system in which he would purchase calves in the fall and winter them. These cattle would be pastured during the summer until July, and then placed in the feed lot. Second, a cattle wintering program might be practiced in which the operator would sell the cattle in the spring to grass men; or third, full feeding operations might be carried on during the winter months.

Dairying might also be profitable within the area. In this case, the operator would place chief dependence upon temporary pastures. A swine program should supplement both the beef cattle and dairy enterprises.

Arkansas River valley land should be used chiefly for corn and alfalfa production, whereas Walnut Creek bottom and its tributaries should also produce corn and alfalfa but also a larger acreage of small grain.

Area IV is located in the northwestern portion of the county. It includes a strip of land approximately three to four miles in width lying adjacent to and west of the Walnut River bottom. The topography of the area extends from relatively level to rolling land. Erosion, while moderate, has not been so severe as in some other areas of the county.

Committeemen report dairy farming was formerly practiced extensively within the area. During depression years, operators quit dairy production and turned to the production of wheat. This transition was expensive to the operator in that his dairy equipment was left unused and he was forced to buy expensive machinery for wheat farming. Partially as a result of this, wheat farmers faced difficult financial problems. Committeemen suggested that the need for immediate income to meet mortgage payments may keep wheat acreages at a high level and prevent operators from turning back to livestock as rapidly as would normally be expected. The limited amount of pasture in the area has been severely overgrazed.

A relatively high concentration of rehabilitation clients lived within this area. Farmsteads, as well as the land, depreciated rapidly. Area IV contains 45,940 acres.¹⁴

For this area, a livestock or general farm of 240 acres was recommended. Livestock enterprises might profitably include dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, or hogs. A year-around pasture program, including proper utilization of both temporary and permanent pasture, will need to be developed.

14. Loc. cit.

Area V is located in the western partion of the county. It consists of the better lands which lie between the Arkansas River and Walnut River. This is the most productive area in the western portion of the county. The topography is chiefly rolling. Farmers, during recent years, have depended almost entirely upon wheat as a chief source of income. The area formerly was utilized for the production of feed crops. Many orchards also existed in the area in the earlier years. There orchards have been destroyed by insects and disease and few operators now practice fruit production. Pastures are all small and have been overgrazed to such an extent that they have been rendered practically useless. Sheet erosion over most of the area is moderate. Farms have changed from a diversified system to cash-grain operation. Area V contains 66,021 acres.¹⁵

Cash-grain farming has been recommended for this area. The size of farm should be from 200 to 320 acres. Alfalfa, wheat, corn, and sorghum should be produced. Cash-grain operations should be supplemented with small livestock enterprises such as swine and poultry.

Area VI occupies the divide between Grouse and Silver creeks in the central and north central portion of the county. The topography extends from level to rolling.

15. Loc. cit.

Erosion is not serious. The area has been known as the best corn producing section of the county. Stands of alfalfa and sweet clover are relatively easy to secure. Area VI contains 84,198 acres.¹⁶

The Committee recommends a general farm of from 160 to 320 acres. This farm would use horses for power. Fifty per cent of the farm unit should be in grass and 50 per cent should be cultivated. The crop rotation would include oats, corn, Kafir, sweet clover, and alfalfa. A beef cow herd, swine, and some sheep were recommended livestock enterprises.

Area VII is located in the southwestern portion of the county. It occupies the upland south and west of the Arkansas River. The soils are fairly sandy with stone outcroppings. The topography varies from level in the extreme southwestern corner of the area to rolling in the other portions.

Pastures are small and have been badly overgrazed. The cover consists mainly of weeds and unpalatable grass. Erosion is a serious problem. It is most serious in that land which occupies the breaks adjacent to the Arkansas River. The cropping system has changed from feed crop production to small grain production. Farms are increasing in size as a result of combination of smaller units. As a result, a good many farmsteads are abandoned. Water for

16. Loc.cit.

livestock and household purposes is not a serious problem. Area VII contains 30,135 acres.¹⁷

Two types of farms were recommended for this area. The first might be a general farm of 160 acres and the second, a cash-grain farm with 320 acres. It was recommended that dairy cattle and sheep enterprises were most desirable for this area.

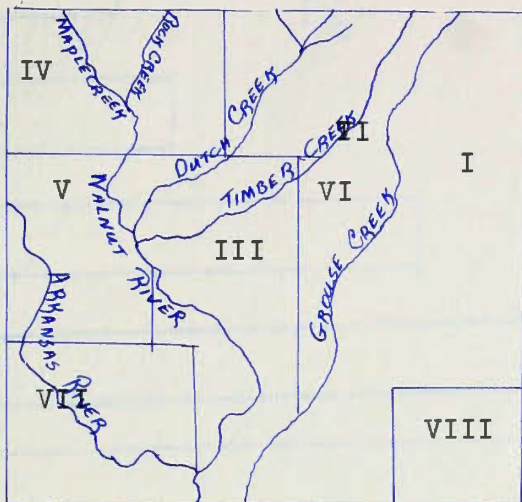
Area VIII is a very small area located in the southeastern part of the county. It is relatively productive and includes a considerable acreage in bottom land. Soils are relatively deep and fertile. The topography is from level to rolling. This area has remained in livestock production. Area VIII contains 5,702 acres.¹⁸

A livestock farm of 320 acres was recommended by the committee. Alfalfa and sorghums should be emphasized in a crop rotation plan.

17. Loc. cit.

18. Loc. cit.

FIGURE II
LAND AREAS IN COWLEY COUNTY



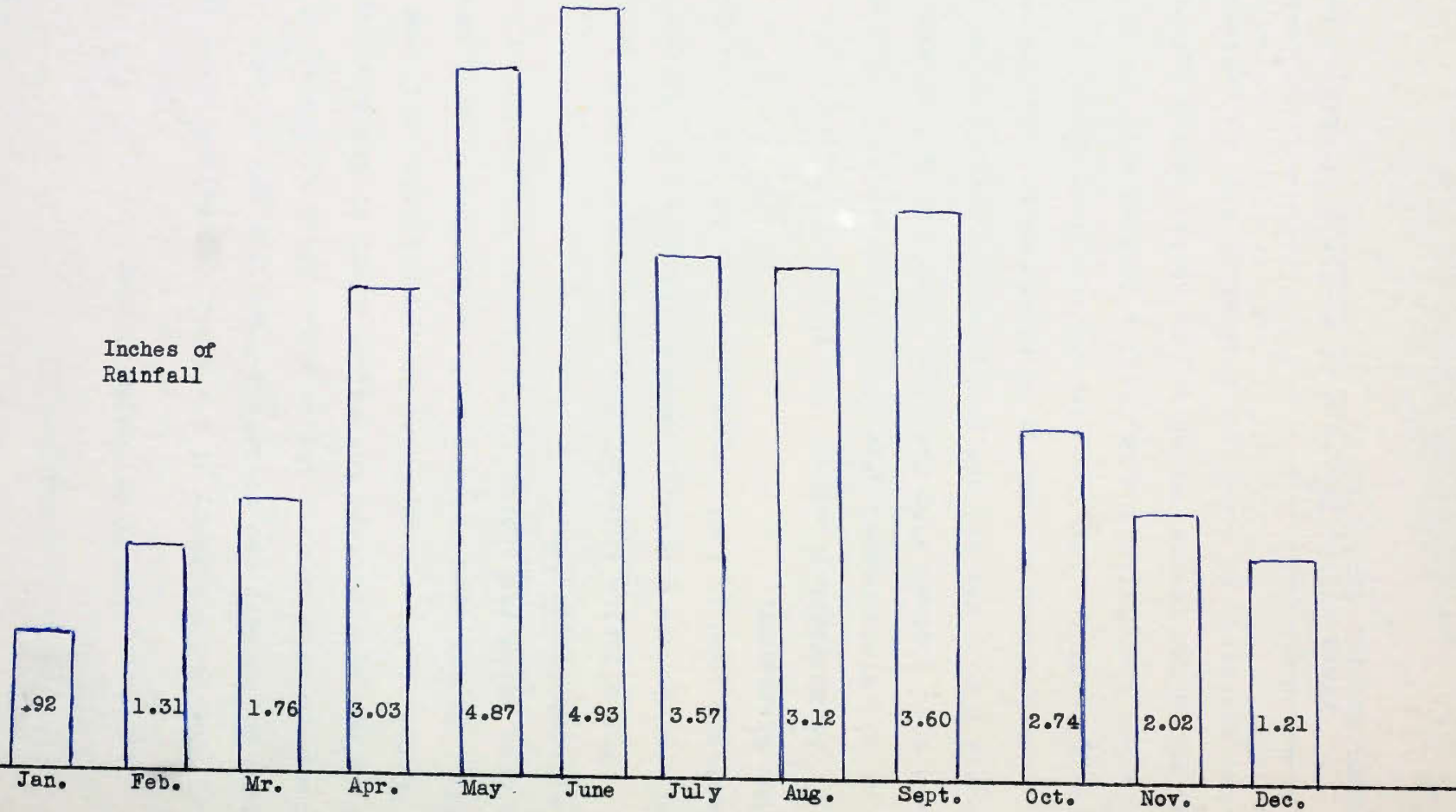
Area I	340,720 acres
Area II	36,392 acres
Area III	117,512 acres
Area IV	45,940 acres
Area V	66,021 acres
Area VI	84,196 acres
Area VII	30,135 acres
Area VIII	5,702 acres

Report of Cowley County Soil Conservation Committee,
Winfield, 1945. Unpublished.

FIGURE III**COWLEY COUNTY, KANSAS

Average Annual Monthly Precipitation
40 years (1904-1944) Scale: 1 inch = one inch rainfall

Inches of
Rainfall



U. S. Department of Agriculture, Yearbook of Agriculture (Washington, D. C., 1941), p. 873.

CHAPTER III

HISTORY OF COWLEY COUNTY

The early history of the beautiful Walnut River is wrapped in mystery and romance. Tradition has it that Coronado in 1542 crossed the Arkansas River southwest of what is now Winfield and the Walnut River at Kickapoo ford and camped at the spring where the Consolidated Mill now stands. Broken arms and utensils, among them a rusty sword, have been uncovered there, evidence that the tradition was not without foundation.

The alluring charm of that particular section in and around what is now Winfield, Kansas, attracted two tribes of Indians who took up their residence here, the powerful Osages and the Kickapoos.

The aborigines enjoyed the simple primitive life. Game of all kinds roamed over the rolling prairies and the streams were stocked with fish that were unafraid of man. There was plenty for all and peace reigned among the Red Men.¹

For the good and safety of all concerned the Osages, who roamed over the territory in the immediate vicinity of what is now the Winfield site, held a counsel with the Kickapoos, who lived several miles to the north, laying before them the necessity of forming a federation for the protection

1. Frank Hills, Panorama of Winfield (Winfield: Independent Record, 1933), p. 4.

of both. An agreement was made between the two tribes in 1850.

Soon after the treaty was solemnized the Pawnees went on the war path against the Kickapoos and, without hesitation, the Osages rushed to the support of their allies and beat off the invaders.²

But the Tonkawas, the most dreaded tribe of all for the reason that they were the only American Indians who are supposed to have been cannibals, were reported by the Osage scouts to be approaching from the south.

The Osage fighting men were unworried for they had an alliance with the Kickapoos and had they not protected their allies and saved them from the powerful Pawnees?

But the Kickapoos hesitated. They feared the terrible Tonkawas who were reported to feast on their victims and they finally flatly refused to assist their neighbors and left them to their own resources.

Realizing that they would be compelled to depend on their prowess and courage for their safety the Osages prepared to do battle for their lives, and so well did they fight that the Tonkawas were driven off with great loss.

Now came the time for the Kickapoos to answer for their breach of contract. The Osages would punish them

2. Loc. cit.

they knew so the Kickapoos took refuge in a natural stronghold on the Walnut River just a little way down the stream from what is now Winfield. There the river makes a mighty bend, leaving quite an acreage backed up by steep rock bluff in the rear and bounded on the front by the waters of the Walnut River.

The Osages lay siege to the place, since known as the Kickapoo corral, and attempted to starve out their former allies, now their enemies, but the Kickapoos were well supplied with provisions and the passes were well guarded.

On a stormy night, contrary to all Indian tradition, the Osages crossed the river and slaughtered the entire branch of the Kickapoo tribe with the exception of a man and woman.³ These two probably escaped but a fiction writer tells us they drowned in the whirlpool a short way down the river.

The Osages were unmolested until February, 1869,⁴ when Thomas B. Ross, a Methodist preacher, James Renfrow, Mrs. Ross' nephew, and Shep Sayre, attracted to the region

3. Loc. cit.

4. A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 1587.

by stories of the country told them by men who had visited the Osages to purchase stolen horses, came down from Cottonwood Falls and settled along the Walnut River three or four miles north of the present site of Winfield. They built log cabins, planted a little corn and then sent for their families. That summer the Osages ran off the Renfrows and the Sayres, but Ross refused to go.⁵ His horses had been stolen by the Indians and, anyway he was not afraid. The Indians called him, "That good old man," and while they threatened him and told him to leave, they refused to do him violence. His family was then the only one in this section. There was not another family to the south between here and the Texas line.

In June, 1869, Cliff M. Wood brought a load of groceries down from Chase county to sell to the Indians and the few settlers in the valley. For a time he kept them in the home of Mr. Renfrow. Soon afterward he built a stockade in the vicinity of the present Consolidated Mill site. The Indians became so threatening that he moved back to the Renfrow home and later left the country for a time with the other settlers. The stockade was burned that fall by the Indians.

On November 2, Dr. W. G. Graham arrived in Winfield

5. Loc. cit.

in an ox wagon with his wife and baby. Mrs. Graham was the first civilized woman to live in Winfield. The baby, Alvah J. Graham, still lives in Winfield. The Grahams lived in a cabin owned by Cliff Wood for ten days and, when Mr. Wood brought a wife home from Cottonwood Falls, they staked out a claim and moved on it.

Settlers were now coming regularly. Among them were John and Joe Stansbury, B. T. Murphy, T. A. Blanchard, S. B. Williams, and T. W. Schwantes. In June 1869, E. C. Manning arrived with P. Y. Becker and erected a cabin for the latter in the bend of the Walnut River, two miles south of the townsite. After the fear of the Indians had somewhat subsided, several others arrived and took claims nearby, among them C. N. Wood, Prettyman Knowles, James H. Land, and others.

In order to induce his wife to come to the wilderness, Mr. Wood promised his bride that the new town should bear her name, Lagonda. The settlement was called this for some time. Later in 1869, in order to persuade Mrs. Andrews to come to the new settlement, Mr. Andrews promised to name the new town Winfield, in honor of Winfield Scott, the Baptist minister of Leavenworth. When Mrs. Andrews came here she found Mrs. Graham in favor of the name Winfield since that was her home town in New York State. In order to decide upon a permanent name for the growing village, an election

was called and the returns from this election made Winfield the permanent name.

During the summer of 1869, H. C. Endicott, George Harmon, Pat Somers, and E. K. Roberts took claims as far south as where Arkansas City now stands. In December of that year Alonzo Howland, W. W. Andrews, Joel Mack, H. C. Loomis, and A. Menor also located there. Mr. Howland built on his land the first frame house in the vicinity, hauling the lumber 100 miles over trackless prairies. Emporia was the nearest connecting point with the railroad--almost a week's journey from Winfield.⁶

The first town company was organized with E. C. Manning, President; W. W. Andrews, Vice President; C. M. Wood, Treasurer; W. G. Graham, Secretary; E. C. Manning, J. H. Land, A. A. Jackson, and T. C. Monforte, Directors. During October and November of 1869, E. C. Manning built the first log house on the townsite.

In January, 1870, it is claimed that the townsite company traded the Indians a keg of rum for a one-year lease on one hundred sixty acres of land along the Walnut which included the townsite of Winfield. A copy of the receipt received from Chetopah, chief of the Osages, is as follows:⁷

6. Edwin C. Manning, Autobiography (Cedar Rapids: Privately Printed, 1911), p. 60.

7. Frank Hills, Panorama of Winfield (Winfield: Independent Record, 1933), p. 5.

Winfield, Cowley Co., Kansas, Jan. 18, 1870

Received of E. C. Manning six dollars, for which I, Chetopah, chief of the Osage Indian Tribe, guarantee a peaceful and unmolested occupancy of 160 acres of land on the reservation for one year from date.

Witness:

His Mark

Willam Conner

Chetopah X

In 1870, the government purchased the Osage land and opened it to settlement. A claim was limited to 160 acres. The price to settlers was \$1.25 per acre. After the Indians relinquished their claims many people moved into the territory that was to become Cowley county

Early in 1870 a bill passed the legislature creating Cowley county, an area containing 33 miles square. The name chosen for the territory was that of Matther Cowley, a brave young officer from Butler county who served with the Ninth Kansas cavalry during the Civil War. Lieutenant Cowley died in a hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas.⁸

Cresswell, now Arkansas City, was made the temporary County Seat by the State Legislature. The influence of the Emporia founder of Cresswell in the Legislature made Winfield inhabitants fear that Cresswell would become the permanent County Seat. To defeat this and to bring the county offices to Winfield, C. M. Wood, A. A. Jackson, and J. H. Land took

8. Daniel W. Wilder, Annals of Kansas (Topeka, Kansas: Publishing House, 1886), p. 293.

a census of the county. They found more than 600 people living in the county. With this information, the group sent E. C. Manning hurrying to Governor Crawford in Topeka. Governor Crawford proclaimed Cowley county organized with Winfield as county seat.

A meeting of the temporary Board of County Commissioners was held in a log cabin belonging to W. W. Andrews. This was on March 23, 1870. Mr. Andrews was elected chairman. At this meeting it was decided to call a special election on May 2, 1870, for the election of County and Township officers and to decide the location of the county seat. The county officers elected in the first elections were: County Commissioners--Morgan Willett, T. A. Blanchard, and G. H. Norton; Sheriff--Frank A. Hunt; County Clerk--H. C. Loomis; District Clerk--John Devore; County Treasurer--W. E. Cook; Registrar of Deeds--T. B. Ross; Probate Judge--E. P. Hickock; County Surveyor--R. S. Graham; Coroner--W. G. Graham.

Arkansas City laid claim to the county seat, declaring that they were nearer to the center of the county. Asserting that the state line was sixteen miles south of their city, they began a concentrated effort to have the county offices moved to their town. Since most of the settlers wished to live near the county seat, and so vigorously did the Arkansas City leaders push their claims, Arkansas City boomed while Winfield dwindled.⁹

9. A. H. Graham, Interview, 1947.

A survey was made by United States Government Deputy Surveyors, to settle the boundary dispute, and it was found that Arkansas City was four and one-half miles from the south county line, and six miles from the west line. As Winfield was found to be only eight and one-half miles from the center of the county, it was evident that Arkansas City could no longer maintain this claim. To appease the disappointment of the settlers of the town, the Arkansas City town company formed a new company with a charter bearing the date of June 13, 1871. This company immediately lay claim to all land in the vicinity of the geographical center of the county. Under the name of the Tisdale Town Company, the group began to move lumber to the site to build a new town. The Winfield Association had anticipated such a move and were on the ground almost as soon as the Arkansas City claimants. The Winfield group were disappointed this time. The Tisdale people could steal more lumber during the night than the Winfield people could bring in during the day. Finally they gave this up as it was too expensive. The Tisdale people proceeded to lay out a town; erected buildings, started a store, a blacksmith shop, and a hotel. All this time a petition was circulating for an election to relocate the county seat.

The election was held August 22 and a lively campaign with many interesting sidelights preceeded it. It was charged that many illegal votes were cast, particularly on

the Winfield side. The story is told that on election day the Tisdale boosters sent out a stage to gather up voters to bring them in to vote. The stage driver was met by one of Winfield's ardent supporters who invited the man to drink to the success of the Tisdale campaign; to the health of Governor Crawford; to his wife and all his friends; with the ensuing result that the driver became a bit confused in his purpose and drove back to Tisdale with a load of watermelons without having even cast his own vote.¹⁰ Though there may have been some suspicious votes cast, it is likely that there were no more illegal votes cast by one side than by the other. The election returns gave Winfield the county seat with a vote of 721 to 523 for Tisdale.

Up to the beginning of 1874, many people came to Kansas because of its good climate. The winters were moderate, with little snow and cold weather, while the summers were very pleasant. From early spring until the middle of August, there was plenty of rain. The settlers had prospered and crop harvests had turned out remarkably well. However, during the winter of 1873-74 there were many prairie fires that destroyed the roots of the grass¹¹

10. Loc. cit.

11. Edwin C. Manning, Autobiography (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Privately Printed, 1911), p. 63.

so that much less grass grew the following spring, causing prairies to be almost bare. The sun beat down on the crops and lack of rain caused them to shrivel and burn.

Had conditions been no worse, the feeble crops might have come along and made a small harvest but a great disaster was impending. Great stormy-looking clouds seemed to collect in the northwest, but to the great surprise of the Kansas farmers they discovered that these clouds were large masses of grasshoppers. As these storms passed over, they took everything in their wake. They took all the crops; they stripped the leaves from the trees--they even ate the twigs. This disaster not only caused much suffering and distress, it frightened many people and caused them to abandon their Kansas claims and leave the state. In Cowley county only a faithful few stayed. However, such a disaster could not happen often, so people began to come in to settle. Within two years the population figure was back up to where it had been and the county again began to progress.

The history of Cowley county would not be complete without a short resume of the period preceeding the opening of the Oklahoma territory to settlement.

David L. Payne, a "Boomer", soldier of fortune, and leader of men, organized several movements and led settlers into the territory while it was still Indian land. Payne sold "settlement certificates" for \$2.50 each which would

allow the holder to have a homestead of 160 acres.¹² Through his efforts, despite numerous arrests by U. S. troops for trespassing, Payne and his Lieutenant, W. I. Couch stirred up so much agitation for the opening of the strip that members of Congress began to favor the purchase of the land from the Indian tribes. The leaders of the Creeks and Seminoles became alarmed and offered to make a settlement with the Government.

A rider was attached to an Indian appropriation bill authorizing the President to establish two land offices within Oklahoma and open the land to settlement, under the Homestead Law. On March 2, 1889, President Harrison signed the bill and three weeks later issued a proclamation throwing the entire Oklahoma district open to settlement "at and after the hour of twelve o'clock, noon, on the twenty-second day of April."

Since Arkansas City is only four and one-half miles from the Oklahoma line it was one of the focal points of the Boomer movement. Land seekers, speculators, business men, adventurers, farmers, gamblers, and people of all types mingled at Arkansas City, Independence, and Caldwell awaiting the opening of the territory. Many who had been influenced by Payne and Couch came early, became discouraged and

12. Carl Coke Rister, Land Hunger (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1942), p. 207.

if they had money, bought out homesteaders near these towns and became residents of Kansas. Others went home, while still others remained to make the run into Oklahoma.

From March 23 to April 22, the Kansas roads leading toward Oklahoma were crowded with covered wagons, hacks, ox carts, buggies, and horseback riders. All the border towns, including Arkansas City were crowded with movers who jostled each other and swapped stories concerning roads and trails. Marion T. Rock described the motley array of people at Arkansas City around the depot Sunday night. By the morning of April 22, the northern boundary of Oklahoma was lined with thousands of prospective settlers in all kinds of vehicles, readying themselves for what they laughingly termed "Harrison's Hosa Race." Blue-coated cavalrymen rode the line to keep back overly ambitious Boomers.¹³

At twelve, by bugle notes or pistol shots the signals were given and the race was on. Thousands of contestants surged across the line in a mad headlong rush toward the coveted lands. The pounding of hoofs, the frightened neighing of horses, the thunderous rattle of careening vehicles, the shouts of excited riders and teamsters, all blended in a din never before heard on the prairies.

Several Santa Fe passenger trains moved southward from Arkansas City to join the race. At the signal, they

13. Ibid., p. 208.

too moved into Oklahoma territory with hundreds of passengers clinging to sides and hanging out of doors and windows. The engineers were to regulate their speed to that of the horse-drawn conveyances but they were soon beyond the line of racing contestants and the passengers began to leap from all windows and doors before the train could stop to disgorge its human cargo.

C. B. Hamilton of Winfield, tells of his experiences in the race. Mounted on a horse, he waited beside the buggy in which his father had lined up with the other contestants.¹⁴ They had not gone far after the starting signal when the buggy broke a wheel while crossing a deep ravine. Hamilton turned back to help his father who got on behind the saddle and the two raced forward. The horse thus burdened was not able to carry them both fast enough to claim land and they were among the hundreds of disappointed land seekers.

This movement had a two-way affect on the population of Cowley county. First, it contributed greatly to the growth and trade of the border town--Arkansas City--and second, while it took many people from the region, it also was instrumental in causing land seekers who had money to come back from the rush and buy land here.

14. C. B. Hamilton, Interview, Winfield, 1947.

CHAPTER IV

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transportation

Railroads

The first railway project affecting Cowley county was proposed in March, 1873, by the Kansas, Nebraska Railway Company. The company sought a subscription of \$150,000 to its stock and the issue of an equal amount of county bonds. The matter was voted on at a special election on April 15, 1873, and 1,138 votes were cast for, and 798 votes against the proposition. The road, however, was not constructed.

Early in 1877, the Memphis, Parsons, and Ellsworth Narrow Gauge road proposed to run through the county but failed to receive sufficient encouragement. On April 16, 1877, the K. C. E. S. Railway was voted \$80,000. The bonds were to bear interest at ten per cent for thirty years and were to be issued upon the completion of the road. Since the road was never built, the bonds were not issued.¹

There was once a time when Winfield, a small struggling village, carted its supplies overland from railroad

1. A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 1588.

points upstate; when passengers traveled in a rickety stage, and slept in roadside inns before they reached their destination. When railroads finally reached Wichita, that point became the place of distribution.

The day of stage coaches and overland hauling passed in 1879, however, for in that year, the Santa Fe completed their line to Winfield, extending to the Gulf. This line was a God-send to the struggling village, and with the coming of this road, it prospered greatly.

But Winfield, destined to become a large railroad center, was not left to be a one line railroad town. Even when the Santa Fe was completing their line to this city, the Cowley, Sumner and Fort Smith Railway Company was doing likewise. Several other roads had proposed to build a line to this city, but all plans were abandoned. However, in 1878, the county voted \$144,000 in bonds to aid the Cowley, Sumner, and Fort Smith road, and it was finally finished through Winfield by October 1, 1879.²

In April of the year 1878, Cowley again voted bonds to the amount of \$68,000 to aid the construction of the Southern Kansas and Western, a branch line of the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Gulf. This road was extended to Winfield by February 17, 1880, and became known as the Southern Kansas.

2. Frank Hills, Panorama of Winfield (Winfield: Independent Record, 1933), p. 11.

While these lines were being completed, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad was building a branch line, passing through Winfield, and on south into the cotton belt of Oklahoma. The "steel belt" of the Frisco reached Winfield the latter part of 1884, and opened up the great southwest, making Winfield a distribution center for that section.

Still another railroad was to reach Winfield. This was a branch line of the Missouri Pacific System. In 1887, this line entered the county at Dexter, passing diagonally across the county, through Winfield, and out of the county at Oxford. This line was a great benefit to Winfield, and Cowley county as a whole, because it opened up new trade possibilities.

There is a story concerning an early struggle connected with the coming of the Missouri Pacific Railroad which shows the interest created among the pioneers of Winfield.³ George Robinson wanted the new track to be built past his farm so as to increase the value of his property. J. B. Lynn, who lived north of Mr. Robinson, desired also to popularize and sell his lots. The gentlemen had quite a heated argument over the proposition. As a result, the Missouri Pacific finally built the railroad near Mr. Lynn's property, causing Mr. Robinson to lose his point. The road was laid on Sunday so that it would be impossible

3. A. H. Graham, Winfield, Interview, 1947.

for Mr. Robinson to secure an injunction to stop the construction.

In 1881, the Southern Kansas line purchased the Cowley, Sumner and Fort Smith Road; later that road was bought by the great Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe system. This left the Santa Fe in control of practically all the roads of southern Kansas, and Winfield became a railroad center as practically all of the important lines terminated, or passed through Winfield. The Santa Fe immediately began to improve her newly acquired possessions, and it soon became the dominant line of the southwest.

Today, the Santa Fe, the Frisco, and the Missouri Pacific are outstanding in the southwest, and even in the nation. The rapid growth of Winfield, and Cowley county has undoubtedly been due to the building of these great railroads to this city.

Roads

The first roads in Cowley county were mere trails. It was hard to travel from place to place in wagons because of the broken nature of the topography. The bottom land roads were often impassible because rain had turned the soft valley soil into a sea of mud. However, the hills provided much chat and gravel and Cowley county soon began to build roads.

Roads in Cowley county are under the County Unit

system which places all roads in the county under the control of the board of county commissioners except state and federal aid highways.

The county now has an excellent system of roads. Broad, hard-surface roads make the market accessible to any district. U. S. 77 runs north and south through the county, entering south of Douglas (Butler County) and running through the county to the Oklahoma line and beyond. Most of the road surface is concrete, wide and smooth. U. S. 166 enters southwest Cowley county from Sumner county. It goes through Arkansas City, running east and a little north across the county. U. S. 160 enters the county from the west at a point east of Oxford, Sumner county, and goes through Winfield and on east. Both highways 166 and 160 are oiled surface roads.

Cowley county has 140.3 miles⁴ of state highways making an excellent transportation network for this area.

Air Transportation

While many Cowley county residents are "air-minded" no air freight and passenger service is available to the area except through traveling to Wichita to board a plane. However, Strother Field, home of the Fairchild Corporation

4. Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Thirty-fourth Biennial Report (Topeka, Kansas, 1943-1944), p. 210.

and joint airport for Winfield and Arkansas City plans to establish a service before too many months.

Agricultural Development

Cowley county is in the southern extreme of farming area V as designated by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Area V is one of the twelve areas of the state, and is known as the "Bluestem Grazing Region." All of Cowley county except a strip about six miles wide on the western edge of the county is in this area. This strip is in area VI which is the eastern wheat belt of Kansas. The land east of the Walnut river is primarily a grazing region where the production of beef cattle predominates.⁵

Cowley county has a total area of 727,040 acres. In 1935 there were 2,946⁶ farms in the county and these farms included 680,377⁷ acres of farm land. Of the farm land 41⁸ per cent was in crops and 54 per cent was in pasture.⁹ Corn, sorghums, wheat, oats, and alfalfa are the principal crops grown.

In the years, 1911 to 1932, yields of all crops were

5. Call and Kent, Agriculture of Kansas (Topeka: The State of Kansas, 1940), p. 15.

6. U. S. Department of Commerce, Sixteenth Census of U. S. (Washington, D. C., 1940), p. 729.

7. Ibid., p. 738.

8. Loc. cit.

9. Loc. cit.

equal to state average yields. The yields of the various crops were: Wheat, 13.8 bushels per acre; Corn, 17.0 bushels; Oats, 23.4 bushels; and Kafir, 16.9.

In 1935, the average farm in Cowley county included 231 acres. In the period following the World War, the average value of farm land in Cowley county was \$71 per acre. In 1935, it was \$31 per acre.

Cowley county was organized in 1870. It is the 8th county in rank of population in Kansas. In 1942 the rural population of the county was 99% native born whites.¹⁰ Twenty-eight per cent of the population live on farms.

The industrial developments in Arkansas City and Winfield, and the proximity to Wichita as a market for perishable products, have influenced the agriculture of the county, and has encouraged the increase in number of small farms.

There has been considerable interest in soil conservation practice in Cowley county for several years. The county agent has planned and laid out terraces, planned and assisted in the establishment of grass waterways, has developed a brome grass and alfalfa program on many farms and has had charge of numerous tours in which these practices were called to the attention of the visiting farmers.

10. J. C. Mohler, Thirty-third Biennial Report of the State Board of Agriculture (Topeka, Kansas, 1942), p. 290.

The Soil Conservation Service has made plans and accomplished some very good work on demonstration farms. Water facilities are being developed in some parts of the county. The Prairie States Forestry Project has established approximately twenty miles of shelter belt all along the west side of the county. The vocational agriculture departments of several schools have carried out soils conservation programs on the student's home farm.

Payments for compliance with AAA have encouraged many practices and created a desire on the part of the farmer for a more permanent and over-all type of conservation program.

The eastern portion of the county is primarily a beef cattle producing section, while the western portion is a more general farming section.¹¹

The eastern part of the county is in the Flint Hills grass section of Kansas with the predominate grass being the tall grasses such as the Big and Little Bluestem, Indian grass, Side Oats, and Grama.

The western part of the county has much short grass due to over grazing. The short grass is Buffalo, Blue Grama, and annuals such as Triple Lawn.

The livestock of Cowley county is fairly well diversified, but beef cattle predominates. In 1942, there were

11. Loc. cit.

on the farms in Cowley county, 47,370 beef cattle; 13,460 dairy cattle; 25,220 hogs; 15,690 sheep and lambs; 7,080 horses; 1,730 mules; and 259,340 mature chickens.¹² A large per cent of the cattle grazing in the Flint Hills region are secured locally. This is not the case in most of the Flint Hills region outside Cowley county. However, there are many steers from Texas and other range country brought in for grazing on the blue stem grasses.

The cooperative creamery at Arkansas City and the milk routes out of Wichita have aided materially in increasing the dairy industry in the west part of the county.

Agricultural Information

The 1940 census shows there were 2,483¹³ farms in the county of which:

36% were operated by owner
15% were operated by part owner
48% were operated by tenants
1% were operated by managers

The 1935 census showed that there were 2,946¹⁴ farms in the county of which:

34% were owner operated
17% were operated by part owners
48% were operated by tenants
1% were operated by managers

12. Loc. cit.

13. Ibid., p. 310.

14. U. S. Department of Commerce, Sixteenth Census of U. S. (Washington, D. C., 1940), p. 729.

The average size of farms in 1940 was 247 acres.¹⁵
 In 1935 it was 230 acres,¹⁶ and in 1930 it was 222 acres.¹⁷
 The farms have increased in size during this ten year period.

Farms (Size group)	Number of Farms	
	1940	1935
Under 10 acres	413	457
50 to 100 acres	304	387
100 to 260 acres	1072	1341
260 to 500 acres	497	469
500 to 1000 acres	46	131
Over 1000 acres	51	46

Crops and Pasture

The 725,120 acres of Cowley county are made up of approximately 680,330 acres in farms, 41% crop land, 54% pasture, and the remainder in buildings, lots, roads, and woodland.¹⁸ The principal crops grown are corn, sorghums, wheat, oats, and alfalfa.

Present Land Use

The principal crops and acreage as reported in 1942 were as follows:¹⁹

15. Ibid., p. 738.

16. Loc. cit.

17. Loc. cit.

18. Loc. cit.

19. J. C. Mohler, Thirty-third Biennial Report of State Board of Agriculture (Topeka, Kansas, 1940), p. 291.

Wheat	68,600 acres
Corn	33,660 acres
Oats	32,750 acres
Barley	19,900 acres
Grain Sorghum	16,200 acres
Forage	13,890 acres
Tame Hay	18,025 acres
Wild Hay	16,300 acres
Soy Beans	2,365 acres

The acreage in Brome grass has been greatly increased during the last three years.

Sweet clover is not used as extensively as it should be; there being only 1,000 acres in the county in 1942.²⁰ This report, however, included only that grown for feed.

Reports indicate that less than 10% of the crop land is in legumes in any given year. Both experience and statistics indicate that not less than 25% of all crop land should be given to legumes--both from a soil conservation and economic point of view.

In 1942, there were 289,735 acres being used for pasture.²¹ Too much of this acreage is on "go back" land that is producing annuals that have very little carrying capacity and only short seasonal usage.

The large ranch pastures, or range, is in good condition but small farm pastures are mostly over grazed to the point that they are not very much more than exercising grounds for livestock.

Most of the woodland in the county consists of wooded

20. Loc. cit.

21. Loc. cit.

areas immediately adjoining the streams. The woodland has received very little attention in regard to economic basis, possibilities, or improvement and development. Many farmstead windbreaks are needed and a program for development and utilization of existing woodlands is needed.

There are numerous orchards in the west and southwest part of the county along the Arkansas River.

Problems and Objectives of Cowley County Summarized

On March 15, 1945, a group of leading farmers and others interested in the farm problem held a meeting.²² They listed the following problems. They are in the order as suggested by the group.

1. Revegetation of "go-back" land.
2. Soil erosion by wind and water.
3. Depletion of soil fertility
4. Drainage of flat land.
5. Loss of organic matter from the soil.
6. Need for more legumes.
7. Need for more shelter belts and windbreak plantings.
8. Improper land use.
9. Need for developing suitable water supply.
10. Distribution of present water supply.
11. Need for better terraces.
12. Need for crop rotation systems.
13. Gully control
14. Flood control
15. Need for pasture improvement
16. Need for higher producing perennial grass.
17. Need for higher producing grain and feed crops.
18. Irrigation.

22. George Brown, Chairman, Report of Cowley county Soil Conservation Committee, Winfield, 1945. Unpublished.

Objectives

The specific objectives agreed upon for correcting the existing situations:²³

1. To secure the proper land use on the greatest possible number of acres in Cowley county by:
 - A. Developing an adequate cropping system and rotation.
 - B. Increasing the acreage of legumes to delay the depletion of nitrogen content of the soil.
 - C. Encouraging the conservation of all crop residue and the use of barnyard manure and lime and phosphate, especially on legumes.
 - D. To retard water erosion and control gullies by properly constructed terrace and diversion of water.
 - E. Retirement of cultivated land not suitable for cultivation to adapted vegetation having the most economic value.
 - F. Improving pasture by mowing, proper grazing practices, development of water supplies, controlled burning.
 - G. Development of shelter belts and far-stand windbreaks to protect land from blowing and to give shelter to livestock.
 - H. Use of proper drainage system on low tight land.
 - I. Development of water supplies for far-stand and feed lot.
 - J. Encouraging the use of best varieties of adapted crops.
2. To develop the better terrace plan.
3. To encourage the development of, and secure for the county, a higher producing perennial grass.
4. Make technical help available for those interested in irrigation.
5. Secure information and legislation that will prevent pollution of present water supplies by water and oil from oil wells.
6. To encourage the use of the above on all water sheds as a flood control measure.

²³. Loc. cit.

Flood Damage

In this county, serious floods have frequently occurred. During the year 1944, the county probably experienced the worst flood and most severe erosion on record. The worst floods occur along the Walnut River. Many of the creeks that run into the Walnut River help to cause these floods. The farm lands along this creek and river valley are mostly in cultivation while there is a tendency for the higher land to be in grass. This causes considerable soil erosion each year. Floods on Grouse Creek occur each year. Although they do not last long, they do considerable washing and silting of the soil. Many times the crop is completely ruined by these floods; other times, the water is not on the crops long enough to damage them.

Mineral Resources

Cowley county has been an important producer of oil and gas for many years. Gas was found near Wipfield as early as 1902. Natural gas was found near Dexter in 1905 and attracted much attention because of its helium content. Although oil was discovered near Dexter in 1914, the first oil field in the county, the Peacock, was opened in 1916.

Following are descriptions of some of the oil fields:

Biddle Field In sec. 12, T 32 S., R. 4E. and secs. 6 and 7. There are, at the present time, twenty wells producing

oil from the Stalnaker sand at about 2,300 feet and from limestone in the Kansas City group at about 2,000 feet. The production in 1944 was 28,047 barrels.²⁴

The Henderson Field In secs. 26 and 27 T. 32 S., R. 3E. Oil was discovered in May, 1942. Four wells now produce from the Kansas City limestone at a depth of about 3,419 feet. The production in 1944 was 21,646 barrels of oil. The cumulative production to December 31, 1944, was 47,843 barrels.²⁵

The Hittle Field In secs. 21 and 28 T. 31 S., R. 4E. It has 64 producing wells. Oil was discovered in January, 1926, at a depth of about 2,400 feet. The production in 1944 was 633,034 barrels; the cumulative production to December 31, 1944 was 5,473,034 barrels.²⁶

The Rainbow Bend West Field In secs. 19 and 30 T. 33 S., R. 3E. The field has three wells and production is from Burgess sand at a depth of 3,500 feet. The production in 1944 was 11,296 barrels.²⁷

Graham Fields In sec. 3, 9, 10, T. 33 S., R.

24. Nada Winchell, Secretary, Consolidated Gas Co., Winfield, Interview, March 1947.

25. Loc. cit.

26. Loc. cit.

27. Loc. cit.

3E. Oil was discovered in August 1925, when a well was drilled to the Arbuckle at a depth of 3,518 feet. This well had an initial daily production of 1,000 barrels. The field now has nine wells which produced 25,350 barrels of oil in 1944. The cumulative production to December 31, 1944, was 2,565,162 barrels.²⁸

Grand Summit Field Discovered in 1926, it is in secs. 3, 4, and 10, T. 31 S., R. 8E. In 1944 the field had 13 wells which produced 18,410 barrels of oil.²⁹

The Winfield Field In secs. 13, 23, 25, 26, 35 and 36, T. 32 S., R. 4E. The Winfield field comprises 5,000 acres. In 1944, 75,389 barrels were produced from this field.³⁰

Of the fields mentioned the Graham field is the largest and due to several recent wells in this district the monthly production of Cowley county has risen to an enormous height. In fact the production is greater than any other county in the State of Kansas.³¹

Maximum oil production in Cowley county was in 1925, when 7,038,874 barrels were produced. Production has

28. Loc. cit.

29. Loc. cit.

30. Loc. cit.

31. Loc. cit.

gradually declined through the years. In 1944 there were 683 producing wells.³²

Most of the credit for the Oil Development goes to the late P. H. Albright, Ed. Greer, and Josh Wallace.

Winfield is in the center of all the production and naturally the whole community has prospered by the discovery of the "Flowing Gold."

From the little area in Cowley county comes as wide a variety of products to feed, clothe and supply industrial products to the world, as any section in the world. Industrial products from the county go to every oil producing section of the world. Gott water cans and Sonner gas burners many years ago established their place in the industrial world.

Before many months, a new product will be going out from this area--Fairchild airplanes which will fly to all corners of the world.

The area helps provide for a hungry world by the large quantities of raw and processed foods which flow out by carloads in a steady stream all year long.

Following are descriptions of some of the manufacturing concerns:

32. Loc. cit.

Fairchild Corporation³³

Important steps which are destined to become rapid strides in the aircraft industry of the United States, were taken in Cowley county in 1946 by the Personal Planes division of the Fairchild Engine and Aircraft Corporation at Strother Field which also is the joint municipal airport of the cities of Winfield and Arkansas City. They have developed a new four-place personal plane. It is expected that testing of the new plane will be made this summer, and it will be in production for delivery in 1948.

Eyes of the industry generally are focused upon the Personal Planes division of Fairchild, a part of a gigantic corporation which in past years has made outstanding contributions not only in the field of aeronautical science, but in other scientific discoveries and developments in other fields.

More than 100 persons are now regularly employed at the Personal Planes plant. It is expected that by late summer there will be from 200 to 250 on the payroll.

First employees of the local plant arrived in August, 1946. The basic personnel level was reached by November.

The parts department at the local plant ships parts for Fairchild planes to all parts of the world.

33. Winfield Daily Courier, Achievement Edition (Winfield: Courier Press, Feb. 10, 1947), p. 20.

Sonner Burner Company 34

For 22 years the Sonner Burner Company, whose products are distributed over the entire United States and many foreign countries, has been growing with Copley county. It was one of the first manufacturing industries to realize the possibilities of industrializing this section, and has developed steadily during the years.

Sonner commercial and industrial burners provide a complete coverage of the conversion field from the cottage to the largest commercial and industrial heating plant. Sonner floor furnaces are in steady demand by homeowners over the country. Sonner oil field and refinery type burners enable the user to develop high overloads on conventional type boilers and have been used to drill deep test wells.

During the past year the Winfield plant employed an average of 75 workers, with a peak of 130 persons. The annual payroll to workers is approximately 300,000.

In order to care for its expansion, buildings and machinery have been added to the plant during the past year. A quonset building was constructed to house the foundry, an additional story was built to provide offices for President P. J. Sonner, Production Manager Lee McCall,

the secretarial force, a drafting room, and testing room.

The Federal Supply and Machine Company³⁵

In keeping with the trends in oil well drilling equipment, the Federal Supply and Machine Company during 1946 has been changing over its machine and equipment shops to handle rotary tool work.

Included in the equipment is machinery for setting Reed tool joints, to handle as much as 6,000 feet of rotary pipe at a time; a power hacksaw; and machinery to change from forge welding to electric arc welding. In addition a full line of parts for Wilson rotary rigs has been added.

The company, of which E. O. Boggs is president and Fred E. Boggs, treasurer, regularly employs 13 men, with more at rush times. The company is 31 years old this year.

H. P. Gott Manufacturing Company³⁶

Gotkool water cans and water coolers, manufactured in Winfield by the Gott Manufacturing Company, for 30 years have been going to all oil producing countries of the world.

35. Ibid. p. 4B.

36. Loc. cit.

Shipments go out practically every day from Winfield to South American countries, to Mexico, Egypt, Iran, the Philippines, and to all oil-producing states in this country.

The company observed its thirtieth anniversary during 1946 as the business was established in 1926 by H. P. Gott. It was purchased in 1944 by Frank E. Jarvis, and his sons. The business has grown steadily during the years and the plant facilities and business field have been expanded constantly.

Consolidated Flour Mill³⁷

Each year approximately a half million barrels of flour milled in the Consolidated Mill, are shipped from Winfield to help feed the people of the world. An average of four carloads of flour a day are loaded out of the Winfield mill, most of it to be distributed to southern and eastern sections of the United States.

The Consolidated Mill, which grinds 5,000 bushels of wheat a day, purchased 256,000 bushels from producers in this locality during 1946, which meant approximately a half million dollars paid out for wheat in the vicinity of Winfield. Other wheat ground here comes from elevators in wheat producing sections of Texas, Oklahoma and Western Kansas to the Colorado line.

37. Ibid. p. 5B.

The Consolidated is one of the largest consumers of power in the city, and annually pays about \$15,000 to the city for utilities. It is also the biggest patron of the Santa Fe freight lines in the city, indirectly accounting for employment of about eight men on the railroad.

The mill provides employment for 50 men, with a payroll of approximately \$120,000 annually, thus forming one of the substantial industries of the city.

Sonny Cobble is manager of the mill, with Jim Hill as assistant manager.

Seymour Packing Company³⁸

The Seymour Packing Company opened a plant in Winfield in 1900 conducting a business which consists principally in the processing of poultry and eggs.

Producers in the territory were paid approximately \$1,250,000 for eggs and \$320,000 for poultry during 1946 by the company. The Seymour plant, of which M. R. Fergus is manager, is one of the major industries, with an average of 125 men employed during the year, and an annual payroll of \$205,000.

The Seymour plant building was erected in 1910. It is 90 by 200 feet and has three floors and a basement.

38. Ibid., p. 2B.

Armour Creameries³⁹

The Armour Creameries was established 45 years ago, by A. S. Kininmonth. He has since retired and his son now manages the plant.

During 1945 the plant shipped out over ten and a half million pounds of Armour "Cloverbloom" butter, eggs and poultry from Winfield, most of it to consumers on the east coast.

39. Ibid., p. 12B.

CHAPTER V

POPULATION GROWTH, DISTRIBUTION, CHARACTERISTICS

From the close of the Civil War to the year of 1890 was the period of greatest growth for Kansas. The Homestead Law enabled a settler to acquire title to 160 acres of land by occupying it for five years. Soldiers returning home from the War found themselves displaced to some extent and grew restless. The spirit of adventure as well as the desire to better themselves caused them to move westward to new land. Missouri, the adjacent state, furnished a large proportion of Kansas population.

Cowley county population numbered 1,175 in 1870.¹ While Missouri contributed a large number to this figure, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana ranked next as former homes of settlers.

In 1872, the construction of the Santa Fe across Cowley county from its former terminal at Wichita, contributed greatly to the increase in population of this county.² Population figures for 1880 show that 21,538 people lived in Cowley county. This is an increase of 20,363 in the ten-year period.

1. Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., Economic Survey of Kansas (1930), p. 174.

2. Loc. cit.

The railroads were active in pushing the settlement of the land they acquired, advertising Kansas widely, and selling large tracts to settlers at low prices.

With the exception of the year 1874, in which a long drought followed by a plague of grasshoppers caused a general exodus from the region, this period was in general one of prosperity for the county.

From 1880 to 1890, Cowley county population increased from 21,538 to 34,478. This period was marked by the great growth in the cities of Winfield and Arkansas City. However, in 1889, Oklahoma was opened for settlement and about 50,000 people left Kansas to settle in this new territory.³ Since Cowley county was in the path of this rush for new land, she lost heavily to Oklahoma. However, new immigrants brought the population figure back to 30,156 in 1900--4,322 people less than the census figures had shown ten years before this time.

The census figures for 1910 show 31,790 people living within the borders of Cowley county. This figure has not changed greatly in the following decades.

In 1928, the population density per square mile was 36.1.⁴ It is now 36.4⁵.

3. Ibid., p. 175.

4. Ibid., p. 178.

5. George Campbell, County Clerk of Cowley county, Census Records.

TABLE I

A POPULATION CHART FOR COWLEY COUNTY

YEAR	TOTAL	WINFIELD	ARKANSAS CITY	DEXTER	UDALL	ATLANTA	BURDEN	CAMBRIDGE	GEUDA SPRINGS
17	33,373								
92	32,640								
00	31,371								
20	36,409								
30	36,692								
33	37,654	8,553	12,515	495	413	386	532	272	59
34	37,627	8,382	13,070	450	434	331	531	248	42
35	37,414	8,673	12,897	432	442	328	531	266	79
36	37,812	8,816	13,332	448	466	341	555	259	52
37	36,376	8,375	12,902	486	461	322	527	235	42
38	36,391	8,231	12,897	433	456	337	574	272	36
39	36,725	9,219	12,497	437	394	328	569	275	26
40	36,143	9,177	12,218	411	405	305	547	245	44
41	36,476	9,020	11,728	436	412	327	567	286	30
42	35,224	8,193	11,592	436	443	317	610	253	21
43	35,071	9,333	12,099	432	445	260	567	180	22
44	35,107	9,713	12,336	345	396	279	541	162	17
45	35,396	9,592	12,811	359	425	286	575	245	9
46	35,078	9,213	13,205	387	407	281	527	238	12

George Campbell, County Clerk of Cowley County, Census Records

CHAPTER VI

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Churches

The First Methodist Episcopal Church

In 1870, the first Methodist congregation in Winfield was organized. Rev. B. C. Swartz and family moved to Winfield in 1869, and after the founding of the church, he became the first pastor. The first congregation consisted of three members, but six more were added by the end of the year.¹

In September, 1870, a small wooden church was erected on the corner of Tenth and Millington. It was twenty-two feet wide and thirty-four feet long. Dr. Graham and wife, two of the first members of the church, furnished the lumber for its erection, as well as giving much time and labor to help complete it.²

The first parsonage was built in 1875, at a cost of \$600. Due to the fine social spirit shown by the members of the church on all occasions, as well as the influence for good of the church itself, the membership grew to fifty-six by June 1, 1876.³

1. A. H. Graham, Winfield, Interview, 1947.

2. Loc. cit.

3. Loc. cit.

By November, 1878, the Sunday School membership had increased until over ninety were enrolled. To care for the rapid growth, the members voted to erect a new building. The parsonage was moved and in December of the same year, work began. A few weeks later, the corner-stone was laid by the Mosonic Lodge, and construction was well under way. On September 28, 1877, opening services were held in the new church.⁴

By 1905, the congregation had become so large that the members foresaw the need of still larger quarters. Subscriptions were raised for a new building, and in August, 1906, the contract was made, and work started. Two months later, the corner-stone was laid, and in April, 1907, the church was completed. On May 12, the new building was dedicated by Bishop D. H. Moore. In 1924, the church property, including the parsonage, was valued at \$61,000. The church continued to grow, maintaining its position among the leading churches of the city.⁵

The First Baptist Church

In the autumn of 1870, Rev. Winfield Scott of Leavenworth, a Baptist and a former chaplain in the army, came into this community on a hunting trip, and was invited to preach a sermon. The services were held in an unfinished store building

4. Loc. cit.

5. Loc. cit.

on Main Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. Boards were laid across the joists at the end of the building for the minister to stand on; a dry goods box served for a pulpit. The joists were also used as seats for the congregation.⁶

From this meeting, the first Baptist Church of Winfield was organized, November 27, 1870. A meeting followed in which a committee was appointed to solicit funds for the erection of a church. By spring, 1872, the building was erected at a total cost of \$2250.27. It was built of stone and situated between Seventh and Eight Avenues on the west side of the street. The lots were donated by the Winfield Town Company.

This building was never formally dedicated. The first pastor was E. P. Hickok. Due to the steady increase in membership, the building soon proved to be inadequate, and a new building was built. It was completed in 1882 and dedicated in May of that year.

The membership increased from eleven members in 1870 to 535 in 1938. Various members of this church have gone out to the missionary fields. The church is at present supporting two of its members at Assam, India.

First Christian Church⁷

J. H. Irvin preached the first sermon for the Christian

6. Frank Hills, Panorama of Winfield (Winfield: Independent Record, 1933), p. 9.

7. Ibid., p. 11.

Church. Discovering that there were a few members of his church in the new town of Winfield, Mr. Irvin preached to these members on several occasions. This resulted in the organization of the church September 22, 1872. A. L. Womack was one of the principals of organization and became the first pastor of the new church.

A store room was used as the first church building, but services had previously been held in the Baptist church. The first real church edifice was small--a frame building located on Millington between Eleventh and Twelfth Avenues.

The church prospered from the beginning, until the panic and hard times swept the country. Religious work, like everything else, was retarded. This, with the loss of the church building by fire, with no insurance and a mortgage, caused great discouragement. However, a new brick building was built on Eight and Millington, and the work of the church proceeded.

First Presbyterian Church⁸

This church was founded in the fall of 1872. Rev. A. R. Naylor came to Winfield in November, having been sent by Dr. Timothy Hill who was Superintendent of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Churches of Kansas.

The first meeting was held in the Baptist building

8. Ibid., p. 13.

the third Sunday in November. In 1873, the First Presbyterian Church was formally organized with thirty-five charter members. In April, Rev. Naylor was called back to Indiana.

Early in 1877, the church started to build its own building. In September, it was dedicated by Rev. James E. Platter, pastor of the church at that time. In 1924, Dr. W. C. Templeton was pastor. At that time there was an active membership of about seven hundred, with a reserve roll of one hundred fifty. Dr. Jackson, the present pastor, has an active membership exceeding this figure.

Church of the Holy Name⁹

Winfield in the 70's was one of the many stop-over places of Father Pouzigilane, a Jesuit missionary. He would leave his headquarters in a buggy hitched to Indian ponies, and traverse all of southern Kansas and Western Oklahoma, as far as Texas. In 1877, Father Schurtz began coming regularly from Wichita.

Mr. Fuller, following the example of his father, donated a plot of ground to the church, and it was there that the first and present churches were built.

Gregory Kelley was the first resident priest, in 1880. He started a school in the church with himself as teacher. Another church was started to take care of the growing membership and in 1888 this building was completed. The

9. Ibid., p. 14.

Sisters of St. Joseph took over some of the duties of the parish. To the great satisfaction of Dr. Emerson, in 1904 they took charge of St. Mary's Hospital.

In February, 1921, the church was destroyed by fire and in September, 1943, the new church was completed at a cost of \$80,000. The present membership of the church is nearly three hundred.

Grace Episcopal Church¹⁰

Before 1877, the church services were held in the old court house, and were conducted by an army officer who came from Leavenworth. In 1877, Bishop Vale became the first bishop of the church. The parish was taken the following year by Rev. Colton.

In 1887, Rev. De Longy took the parish and held services for several years. When Bishop Vale died, Bishop Thomas took the pulpit.

In 1888, a frame church was erected on the present site, but in 1893 this structure was destroyed by a tornado. When the wreckage of the church was cleared away, it was found that the illruined chancel window, representing the Savior as the Good Shepherd, the gilt cross, and the marble Baptismal font were in perfect condition untouched by the falling timbers of the church.

10. Ibid., p. 17.

About this time, Bishop Thomas died and Bishop Mills-
paugh took his place. He induced Rev. Carpenter to come from
New York and take the parish, and it was Rev. Carpenter who
laid the corner stone of the present church in 1898.

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church

This church had its beginning in the year of 1888. A
small band of faithful workers organized a class and petitioned
the Annual Conference to send them a pastor. This request was
granted and Rev. E. H. Vaughn was appointed to serve what was
known as the "Second Church of Winfield." Later it became
known as the "College Hill Church," and finally took the name
of the Grace Methodist Church.

For sometime they met in the college chapel for worship.
In 1902, under the leadership of J. M. Roberts, the church
was built.

During the year 1912, under the leadership of Rev. A. L.
George, the church was enlarged making it possible to seat
seven hundred.

Grace church has meant much to Southwestern College.
Many of the students have been converted at her altar. Many
of the Church groups are made up largely of Southwestern students.

After the fire destroyed the church in 1917, a new
structure was built at a cost of \$65,000. The membership in
1936 was eight hundred seventy-five. It still remains at

about this figure.¹¹

Other Churches

Winfield is a Church town. In addition to the larger churches there are seven other churches and the Salvation Army. These churches include: Bethel A. M. E. Church; United Brethern; Baden Memorial Lutheran; Colored Baptist; Southern Baptist; Church of Christ; and Church of the Latter Day Saints. The largest in membership of this group is the Baden Memorial Lutheran. They have a membership of four hundred fifty. Many of their congregation come from St. John's college.

Schools

Cowley county is fortunate in having excellent schools. Winfield, the county seat, prides itself in having schools second to none. Besides the excellent foundation work given in the grades and high school, Cowley county boasts of two institutions of higher learning.

Southwestern College

At its third annual session, which was held in 1885, the Southwest Kansas Conference of the Methodist Church decided to establish a new institution of learning within its boundaries. A committee was appointed to select a location;

11. Ibid., p. 19.

El Dorado, Hutchinson, Newton, Peabody, Wellington, and Winfield being the locations considered. Winfield won, having offered \$60,000 in cash, forty acres of land, stone for the building, a free water supply for use in erecting it, and all lumber and hardware at cost.¹²

As the building was not completed by the fall of 1886, the second story over Baden's general store was rented. This building was located on the corner of Tenth and Main and the assembly room opened into a rear alley in which a poultry business was carried on. The view from the present site of the college offers a striking contrast to its earlier environment.

The enrollment at the opening of school was forty-three, and John E. Harp was the first president. An academy offering four years of high school work, formed a part of the school for many years. At one time, its enrollment numbered six hundred. In 1916, this academy was discontinued.

The first college building completed is known as North Hall or Science Hall. It was completed in 1887. There was a question for some time as to how this new hall was to be heated. It was finally decided to close the large south entrance which had been planned. The furnace room was located in that section of the building now occupied by the domestic science department.

12. Ibid., p. 12.

All the water used in chemical experiments in this new science hall, was carried from a well situated on the side of the hill to the north of where Smith Hall now stands. A windmill furnished the means of drawing the water, and it was the president's son, John Harp who had to keep this windmill well oiled. When there was not sufficient water in the well, it was carried from Dutch creek.

During the first few years of the existence of the college, the girls were such strict Methodists, they wouldn't go to theaters or ride on the street cars on Sunday.

At first, the tuition and board cost one hundred dollars per year in advance. In 1890-91, the board was about \$1.50 per week, and girls' rooms were only twenty-five cents.

The College Senate was started in 1892, and was composed of students and faculty members. Since its beginning, this organization has grown and solved many problems.

In 1910, Richardson Hall, the building that crowns the hill, was completed. That part of the hall which projects east of the main part of the building and contains the stage, was added after the cement wall had been put around the building. When this was added, a hole was cut through this cement wall about four feet from the ground and about one and one-half feet square. The purpose of this opening was to fix a passageway from the stage to the main building. This idea was abandoned and an outside door was built. The hole

still remains there and is used only during the initiations of the various organizations.

Plans were made for installing the boilers and heating apparatus under Richardson Hall and about four hundred dollars were spent in blasting a hole for this purpose. The idea of placing the heating apparatus there was given up and the present plan of heating the two buildings from the same plant was adopted.

The latest addition to Southwestern is the gymnasium. It is a large building, with adequate facilities for indoor sports. At present ground is being broken for new buildings on the campus. These will include housing facilities for students.

Athletics have contributed much to making Southwestern known as one of the outstanding colleges of the state. Southwestern teams have brought National Basketball Tournament trophies back to Winfield several times.

St. John's College¹³

Winfield owes its educational growth to another organization widely known; namely, St. John's College, which was founded by J. P. Baden in 1883, to which he contributed \$50,000 for its erection and support.

13. St. John's College Catalog (Winfield: Privately Printed, 1938), p. 6.

Mr. Baden bought the block of ground on which Baden Hall was to be built for \$1,200. In 1909 the Commercial Club of Winfield donated the block of ground adjoining west of the block which Mr. Baden donated, on which the boy's dormitory was later erected. On February 20, 1893, incorporation papers were signed but it was not until March 1, 1895, that the building was dedicated.

The building was not ready for occupancy by the following September, but classes were opened on the second floor of Mr. Baden's store which is at present the Calvert-Cheek Co., store.

In May, 1893, the property was given to the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

On March 1, 1894,¹⁴ the building was dedicated with Prof. H. Sieck as President, who was the first man to hold such a position in this school. Then on account of failing health, he resigned and Rev. A. W. Meyer of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, succeeded him. After A. W. Meyer became President in 1895, the enrollment increased from fourteen to two hundred fifty. The faculty grew from two to eighteen. Classes were first opened by Prof. H. Stoppelwerth, assisted by Pastor G. Luecke.

In 1898, the first class graduated; nine in number. Four of them were given diplomas for further study of the

14. Frank Hills, Panorama of Winfield (Winfield: Independent Record, 1933), p. 14.

ministry at the St. Louis Seminary.

The upkeep of the college was too great for such a small synod and in 1908 the Missouri Synod took it in hand but it was not until 1911 that the general body governed it.

On account of the rapid growth of the college, Baden Hall could no longer accommodate the increasing number of students; then the synod, while in session at Chicago in 1914, authorized the erection of a fire-proof building, a boy's dormitory built of native stone, sanitary and modern in all respects, to be built on the block which was donated by the Commercial Club of Winfield.

Before this time, Baden Hall had a dining hall, kitchen in the basement, the class-rooms on the first floor, and the bedrooms and study rooms on the third and fourth floors. Boys also slept in the dormitory.

In 1925, there were three buildings: the administration building, the dormitory, and the gymnasium. Since then the new administration building has been erected at a cost of \$155,000.

St. John's College is a coeducational school. It offers courses in Normal Training, Classical, Commercial, Secretarial, Music, and High School.

There are forty-nine Lutheran Colleges in the United States not including the seminaries and theological colleges and St. John's stands in the lead as students come from all parts of the United States to attend this college.

City Government

Winfield

On February 12, 1873, Winfield was incorporated as a third class city. L. B. Ross, the first Probate Judge of Cowley county, and Colonel Manning drove after midnight to Augusta, which shows Mr. Manning's great interest in the growing city, and how Judge Ross, although a strict observer of the Sabbath, was concerned with putting Winfield to the front. Mr. Manning's plan was to go on the Sabbath to Augusta, so as to be on the grounds early Monday morning with the necessary papers for incorporation. But he made a bargain with Mr. Manning, that if he would wait until midnight, at the time when Sabbath would terminate, he would make the journey.

Mr. Manning's haste was due to a rumor that in Arkansas City, men were intending to incorporate that city in a short time; and it proved to be well founded, for one day after Winfield was incorporated, Arkansas City also secured their papers.

In March 1873, the city was divided into five wards, and the first election was held on the seventh of that month. Those elected were: Mayor--W. H. Harris, Police Judge--A. A. Jackson, Councilmen--O. F. Boyle, C. A. Bliss, J. D. Cochran, H. S. Silver, and S. C. Smith.

In February, 1879, Winfield had a population of 2,000 and was proclaimed a second class city.

In 1921 the Government of the city was changed to the City Commissioner-Manager form of Government, in which three Commissioners were elected; one of whom is chosen Mayor. The city's business is handled by the City Manager. He also appoints the city clerk, chief of police, fire chief, street commissioners, park commissioners, cemetery and health officers, and he is at present, head of the water and light plant.

Arkansas City

The second city of the county is located on the rolling peninsula between the Arkansas and Walnut Rivers, four miles from the south line of the county and twelve miles south of Winfield the county seat. From its earliest settlement in 1870, it had a very large Indian Territory trade, and it grew rapidly, having in 1882 a population of 1,386. The name finally adopted is the fourth which has been given the place, Adelphi, Walnut City and Cresswell having for a time been in use. A branch of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway reached this point in December 31, 1879; since then the principal growth of the city has taken place.

The first general store was opened in 1870 by G. H. and H. Norton who bought a stock of goods and began business in their cabin. The first drug store was opened by Eddy and Keith. H. D. Kellogg was the first physician. There was a saw mill at the present location of the Santa Fe depot.¹⁵

15. Frank Blackman, Kansas (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), p. 1589.

The city water works were put in in the spring of 1881. Water is obtained from a spring near town and pumped to a reservoir in the south part of the city, where it is distributed in the usual manner. As the city has grown this system has required enlarging.

Some of the first churches were the Methodist Episcopal, the United Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the Baptist Church.

Arkansas City's newspaper, the Arkansas City Traveler, made its first appearance on August 24, 1870. The paper at first was a seven column folio, but since then it has been enlarged. It has always been Republican in politics.

The order for incorporation was issued on June 10, 1872, by W. P. Campbell, Judge of the Thirteenth District.

Burden

Burden is the child of the railway in a sense. Had there been no K. C. L. & S. road, the town site would still be a farm. It was like a lot of the newer towns of Kansas, in that the town went to the railway instead of the railway to the town. The principle is the same as that of Mahomet and the mountain. It is located 225 miles south of Kansas City and 16 miles east of Winfield.

Immediately after the laying of the town, settlers flocked into it, and available shanties were hauled into town to do temporary duty.

The first three stores were a stone store, a drug store, and a post office.

It is difficult to decide which of the three religious bodies of the town should be accorded priority, as two of them, The Methodist Church and The Baptist Church, had been holding services near the town long before the railway gave Burden a possibility. The third church was the Christian.

Dexter

The Dexter town company was organized in July 1870, but it was not incorporated until October 21, 1875. At that time it had three or four stores, a blacksmith shop, a hotel, and other business houses. It also had a good business with the surrounding farm population.

The post office is a money order office and is supplied by daily mail from Winfield.

Udall

Udall is a lively little town near the northwest corner of the county. It was laid out in April 1882 on thirty acres and was named in honor of Cornelius Udall. There were three stores opened at first and a post office was established in 1879. There was also a school held in a building erected for district purposes, at a cost of \$750.

On Tuesday, January 23, 1883, Sheriff Shenneman of Cowley county was murdered at Udall. This was quite an event in the history of the town.

Tisdale

Tisdale began with three stores and other buildings, and did a flourishing trade with the surrounding country until the spring of 1880. At that time a railroad was built and much of the former trade went to it. Tisdale is now a small village with a store, post office and milling station. There is an elevator which buys grain from the local farmers, but since the advent of motor cars, most farmers go to Winfield or Burden to trade.

Atlanta

Atlanta is twenty miles northeast of Winfield. It has a money order post office with three rural delivery routes, a freight and express office, and several good retail stores. It is on the Frisco railroad and is a shipping point and supply center for the agricultural region surrounding it.¹⁶ Atlanta has a population of 281 inhabitants.¹⁷

Cambridge

Cambridge is twenty-two miles east of Winfield, on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. It has a bank, money order post office, some good stores, hotel, and churches of

16. Frank Blackmar, Kansas (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co.), p. 116.

17. George Campbell, County Clerk of Cowley County, Census Records.

leading denominations. Cambridge is used as a livestock shipping center.¹⁸ The population is 238.¹⁹

Geuda Springs

Geuda Springs proper lies in Sumner county. It has a few stores, post office, and hotel. The outskirts of the village is in Cowley county. Twelve of the Geuda Springs residents pay taxes in Cowley county.²⁰

Newspapers

Until 1870, Cowley county was without a newspaper; but in that year, one of the first printing presses brought to Kansas, was purchased from Colonel Sam W. Wood of Cottonwood Falls and the Censor, a weekly paper, was started in Winfield. This primitive printing press was of an early Seth Adams make with twenty stars on it indicating that there were twenty states in the Union at the time of its manufacture. The press was undoubtedly made prior to 1818, as in that year the twenty-first state was admitted. The actual printing for the first two numbers of the Censor of August 13 and 20 were printed in Augusta before the arrival of the press in Winfield.²¹

18. Blackmar, op. cit., p. 276.

19. Campbell, op. cit., Census Records.

20. Loc. cit.

21. C. J. Whitson, Winfield, Interview, 1947.

The first editor of the Censor was A. J. Patrick, a well known newspaperman. The Censor changed hands several times, and finally came into the possession of W. H. Kearns. After running the paper for seventeen months, the name was changed, and it became known as the Winfield Messenger. Later Mr. Kearns sold his interest to the Yale Brothers, under whose management the paper failed due to financial difficulties. The effects of the paper were moved to McPherson, with the exception of the press, which was sold and moved to Missouri.

Winfield was again without a paper for a few months. In the early part of 1872 the Cowley County Telegram was moved from Tisdale to Winfield, where a fine building was built to house the publication. On March 20, 1872, the first Daily Telegram was published. In spite of all the preparations to establish the Telegram firmly in Winfield, it failed, ceasing operations in 1881. The Telegram was an Independent or Granger publication at first, but later changed to a Democratic paper.

The Winfield Courier, Winfield's first permanent newspaper, was established in 1873 by the Waddell Publishing Co. but changed hands several times and finally came under the control of E. P. Greer. Under his management, the paper prospered.

Several minor publications were started in the Seventies

and Eighties, among which was the Plow and Anvil. This was a Granger paper started in 1874, but was soon discontinued.

In 1888, a radical paper, known as the Non-conformist, started business in Winfield, and for a time, it gained quite a large circulation. The paper was so very radical that it soon lost many of its patrons and was forced to stop publication.

The Winfield Tribune was founded in the year 1884, but in 1886 the name was changed to the Winfield Visitor, and both a daily and weekly were published. By 1891 the daily was discontinued, but in 1907, the weekly disappeared and the daily was revived. The Free Press was founded in 1888 at Dexter under the name of the Dexter Free Press but in 1890 it was moved to Winfield, and became known as the Industrial Educator. Only one issue was published under this name, when the name was changed to the Industrial Free Press. The Winfield Daily Free Press was established in 1902, and consolidated with the Industrial Free Press in 1906. In 1908, the Winfield Free Press merged with the Tribune, and was printed under the name of the Winfield Daily Free Press. W. G. Anderson purchased the Free Press in 1911, and the Courier and Free Press were in competition until 1924 when W. G. Anderson bought out the Courier and published the paper under the name of the Winfield Daily Courier and Free Press.²² The Winfield Daily Courier is now published by Carl Rott.

22. Loc. cit.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY

Cowley county is located in the southern part of the state, bordering Oklahoma on the south and is five counties west of the Missouri line. It is in the blue-stem region of Kansas and the eastern part of the county is primarily engaged in the production of livestock. The average annual precipitation of thirty-three inches, together with abundant sunshine and an average growing season of 188 days, makes lush pastures in the Flint Hills area ideal for the raising of beef cattle. Thousands of cattle are shipped in annually to be grass fed and ready for market.

The soil is primarily residual from limestone; deep, friable and fertile. The valleys of the two principal rivers, the Walnut and the Arkansas, are wide and the soil is dark rich silt loam.

Cowley county is rich in Indian lore. Little was known of this region until after the Civil War because it was not on one of the routes across the continent. However, in 1867, early traders brought back glowing tales of the rich valleys to the south and east of Wichita. They reported that fish and game were abundant in the region and that the county along the Walnut was beautiful beyond description.

In 1869, Thomas B. Ross, James Renfrow, and Shep Sayer, attracted by stories told by those who had been to the Cowley county region to trade with the Indians, came from Cottonwood Falls and settled along the Walnut River three or four miles north of the present site of Winfield. Other settlers came and a small settlement was soon established here. One of the families was that of Dr. W. G. Graham who came by ox-cart from Ohio. Mrs. Graham was the first white woman to live in the Winfield area. Their son, who was then a baby, still lives in Winfield.

The early settlers made their living chiefly by hunting, fishing, and trapping. However, as more people came to the region, they planted small fields of corn and large gardens. A saw mill was established by Dr. Graham. Logs were cut and homes were built. In 1870, after the Government purchased the land from the Osage Indians, the territory was opened to settlement. A claim was limited to 160 acres. The price to the settlers was \$1.25 per acre. In 1870, there were approximately 600 people in the area, and the legislature created Cowley county, naming it for an officer from adjoining Butler county who had served with the Ninth Kansas cavalry during the Civil War.

Cresswell, now Arkansas City, was made the temporary county seat. E. C. Manning of Winfield, took the first census of the county, and finding 800 people, petitioned

Governor Crawford to make Winfield the county seat. This was done but it took a special election on August 22, 1871, to firmly establish Winfield's right to that position.

Good seasons brought more settlers to the region but the drought and the grasshopper invasion of 1874 sent many of the discouraged settlers back to their old homes. However, good times returned and within two years the population was back to its normal figure. The completion of a railroad across Cowley county in 1879 brought many settlers. By 1880, there were 21,538 people living in the county. The social and economic life of the community progressed. Business prospered, schools and churches which had been established soon after the county was organized, developed and grew.

In 1889, Oklahoma was opened to settlement. The population of Cowley county in 1887 was 33,373. In 1890, the figure was 34,478 despite a heavy loss to Oklahoma. This movement to Oklahoma continued, however, and by 1900 the census figures showed 30,156--4,322 people less than the census figures had shown ten years earlier.

The first school was a log cabin on North Manning Street in Winfield. It was established in 1870 with Alice Marks as teacher. From that small beginning has developed the fine school system that exists today--five modern elementary schools and a Junior-Senior high school with over 1,000 students.

Southwestern and St. John's Colleges contribute much to the educational and cultural life of Cowley county. Southwestern College was established by the Southwest Kansas Conference of the Methodist church. After much consideration the church selected Winfield as the site for the college. Work at the college began in 1886. In addition to the preparation of students for the ministry, the college offers a broad general course and also specializes in the preparation of teachers for the public schools of Kansas.

In 1893, J. P. Baden founded St. John's College. He contributed 50,000 for the purpose of building this co-educational Luthern school. St. John's students come from all over the United States since the college is one of forty-nine Luthern colleges in the country.

The people of Cowley county are "church-minded." They take pride in their fine churches and the size of the congregations. Winfield is known as a church town and among the residents are many retired ministers.

The early establishment of churches and schools gives evidence of the type and character of the people. One of the first settlers, Thomas B. Ross, was a Methodist minister. The Grahams were Methodists and Methodist meetings were held before Cowley county was organized in 1870. Dr. Graham donated lumber from his sawmill to build the first church which was completed the year that the county was organized.

Early growth of the church was slow but by June 1, 1876, the membership had grown to 56. Today the Methodist church has over 900 members on its rolls.

The First Baptist Church is also a pioneer in the field. It was begun in the fall of 1870. By 1900 the Church had a membership of 236. In 1946, there were 897 names in the membership book.

The First Christian Church was established in 1872 with Reverend Womack as the first pastor. It has grown steadily and now has approximately 800 members.

The First Presbyterian Church now has an active membership of 737. Dr. Jackson is the present pastor.

There are about two dozen churches in Winfield with a total membership of over 3,500.

Cowley county is primarily an agricultural area. Produce from the farms in 1946 made a worthy contribution to the world's breadbasket.

Value of livestock, grains, hay, poultry and dairy products produced during the year was over \$15,000,000.

Wheat, other grains and hay, had a value of over \$7,000,000 and livestock, poultry and dairy products exceeded \$8,000,000. From about 95,000 acres of wheat planted, a yield of around 2,000,000 bushels was harvested.

Another big item in food production in 1946 was the finishing of beef cattle in the bluestem hills which lie in

the eastern part of the county. It is estimated that the value of beef cattle finished exceeded \$2,500,000. Two other sources of money for the farmers of Cowley county are milk products and poultry. Around 50,000,000 pounds of milk products were produced last year with a value of \$1,250,000. Value of poultry including chickens and turkeys, as well as eggs, exceeded one million dollars.

Farmers of Cowley county are giving more attention each year to improving their soils by crop rotation, fertilizers, restoration of humus, and general farm practices. More effort is being expended in conservation of moisture, prevention of soil erosion by terracing, and the planting of grasses on soils which have started to wash. The farmers are beginning to realize that improved and higher yielding varieties of seed are only temporary for good income and that soil fertility is of foremost importance.

During 1946 nearly three million barrels of oil came from Cowley county wells to be converted into fuel to keep the nation's transportation and industrial system operating in high gear. There are 184 producing wells in the Cowley county fields. The Hittle pool north of Winfield is the largest producing field in the county. At present it has fifty-three producing wells.

All of Cowley county seems to have a rock formation of pure magnesium limestone underlying the ground. This stone is of the finest quality for building stone. It is

light in color and does not change color greatly with age. Two quarries are important to the building industry. One is located two miles east of Winfield and the other is at Silverdale in Southeastern Cowley county. The stone is soft when first unearthed and can easily be sawed into building blocks, but it hardens rapidly when exposed to the air and wears extremely well.

Industrial products from Cowley county go to every oil producing section of the world. Gott water cans and Sonner gas burners many years ago established their place in the industrial world.

Before many months, a new product from this area--Fairchild airplanes will fly to all corners of the world.

The Consolidated Mill takes much of Cowley county's wheat. Each year they ship approximately a half million barrels of flour--most of it to the southern and eastern sections of the United States. The mill employs fifty men and has an annual payroll of \$120,000.

Receipts at the Winfield post office for 1946 were \$82,527.53.

Over one million dollars worth of residence and business buildings were constructed in Winfield in 1946. It is estimated that approximately five million dollars worth of construction will be started or completed by 1948.

The population of Cowley county in 1941 was 36,476. The census for 1946 shows 35,078 people living here. The decline of about 1300 in population figures is explained chiefly by the fact that many workers who went to defense industries in other areas did not return. The population of Cowley county is made of 99% native born white people.

The people of Cowley county are a homogeneous group of native American stock. They are energetic and take pride in their cities, schools, churches, and government. Music has played a large part in their cultural development and Winfield was given much publicity in an article in the November, 1945, Reader's Digest, titled, "Mad About Music."

Winfield has a city manager form of government. The city is progressive in every way in community betterment projects. The per capita wealth of Cowley county is high. Winfield's per capita wealth averages \$1500 per person in the city. The First National Bank of Winfield has deposits listed at \$10,408,218.79, the State Bank \$3,323,478.67; and the First Federal Savings and Loan, \$694,071.17.

The economic factors that contributed to the growth and development of the county--climate, soil fertility, location, and transportation--and the progressive nature of the people, promise an interesting and profitable future.

Plans are underway to improve farming practices in this area. Aviation is in its infancy but promises a lusty growth. A difficult problem which has the attention of some of the best engineers in the country is that of controlling the Walnut River at flood stage. Dikes have been raised and channels dug, and the situation is being remedied. The Board of Education has a sinking fund into which funds are being diverted for the construction of a new trade building to be used for the training of students in vocations. Cowley county is on the move towards a bright future.

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